

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8952
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 5580

EXDIS

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: DEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF JULY 8, 1977
(SALT TWO - 1272)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MINISTER
SEMENOV AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF JULY 8, 1977.

QUOTE: IN THE COURSE OF THE CURRENT PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THE
SIDES HAVE BEEN EXCHANGING VIEWS ON COMPLETING AGREEMENT ON THE
PROVISIONS RELATED TO ARTICLE XVI, PAR. 3--ON BANNING DELIBERATE
CONCEALMENT MEASURES.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE USSR DELEGATION HAS SET FORTH ITS APPROACH,
IN PARTICULAR, AT THE MEETINGS OF JUNE 3, 10 AND 29, 1977. THE US
DELEGATION DEALT WITH THIS QUESTION AT THE MAY 27, AS WELL AS THE
JUNE 3 AND 10, 1977 MEETINGS. THE RELEVANT FORMULATIONS ARE ALSO
BEFORE THE DRAFTING GROUP.

AS A RESULT OF THE DISCUSSIONS, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN
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REACHED TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XVI, PAR.3,
AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE AGREED STATEMENT THERETO, APPLY TO ALL
OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT, INCLUDING THE PROVISIONS ASSOCIATED
WITH
TESTING. WORK HAS BEGUN ON COMBINING THE FORMULATIONS AS REGARDS
TESTING OF ABM DEFENSE PENETRATION AIDS.

AS FOR CURRENT TESTING PRACTICES, THE SITUATION HERE IS ANALOGOUS TO THAT OF CONSTRUCTION, ASSEMBLY, CONVERSION AND OVERHAUL PRACTICES. CURRENT TESTING PRACTICES, BOTH IN THE USSR AND THE US, DO NOT INVOLVE ANYTHING REQUIRING CHANGES IN CONNECTION WITH THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XVI, OF THE DRAFT.

IT WAS SUGGESTED HERE THAT DURING THE PERIOD BEFORE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT METHODS OF TESTING MIGHT BE ADOPTED WHICH COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS DELIBERATE CONCEALMENT MEASURES. THIS IS AN ABSTRACT WAY OF PUTTING THE QUESTION. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IN THIS CASE THERE IS NOT NEED FOR ANY ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE US SIDE REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF MEASURES TO CONCEAL THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN ICBMS AND THEIR LAUNCHERS DURING TESTING, THE SOVIET SIDE TABLED AN APPROPRIATE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL AT THE JUNE 3, 1977 MEETING. WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT IT HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE DRAFTING GROUP.

AS REGARDS THE THIRD SENTENCE OF THE US WORDING OF THE TEXT OF ARTICLE XVI, PAR.3, YOU ARE AWARE OF THE SOVIET SIDE'S APPROACH. THAT SENTENCE IS SUPERFLUOUS. AS NOTED BY THE US DELEGATION AT THE JUNE 10, 1977 MEETING, THE VERY WORD "DELIBERATE" PRECLUDES NON-DELIBERATE CONCEALMENT MEASURES, I.E., THERE IS NO NEED TO SPEAK OF "MEASURES AND PRACTICES WHICH RESULT IN UNINTENTIONALLY IMPEDING VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS." MOREOVER, UNDER ARTICLE XVI, PAR.2, THE SIDES HAVE ALREADY AGREED ON THE OBLIGATION
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NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION OF THE OTHER SIDE, OPERATING IN ACCORDANCE WITH PAR. 1 OF THAT ARTICLE.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 5580

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THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRD SENTENCE OF THE US WORDING OF ARTICLE XVI, PAR.3, MIGHT BECOME A SOURCE OF COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED MISUNDERSTANDINGS. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTERESTS OF EITHER SIDE.

IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XVI, PAR.3, IT SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THAT IN ARTICLE XVII A PROVISION HAS BEEN AGREED UPON TO THE EFFECT THAT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION THE SIDES WILL, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CONSIDER QUESTIONS INVOLVING UNINTENDED INTERFERENCE WITH NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION, THAT IS, OF COURSE, IF SUCH QUESTIONS ARISE.

ALL THIS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ALREADY AGREED PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XVI, ESTABLISHES THE NECESSARY BASIS FOR MOVING FORWARD IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON THOSE PROVISIONS OF PAR. 3 OF THIS ARTICLE WHERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US STILL REMAIN.

IN CONCLUSION -- ON THE QUESTION OF METHODS OF TRANSMITTING TELEMETRIC INFORMATION.

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THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP AT ALL BETWEEN METHODS OF TRANSMITTING TELEMETRIC INFORMATION, ON THE ONE HAND, AND VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS, ON THE OTHER. THESE ARE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT AREAS. METHODS OF TRANSMITTING TELEMETRIC INFORMATION CANNOT BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DELIBERATE CONCEALMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT.

AS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED HERE, METHODS OF TRANSMITTING TELEMETRIC INFORMATION, BEING PART OF THE PURELY INTERNAL TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE SIDES, ARE GOVERNED BY ACUTAL REQUIREMENTS WHICH MAY VARY DEPENDING UPON THE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF TESTING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY. ATTEMPTS TO INTERFERE IN SUCH ACTIVITIES, UNDER WHATEVER PRETEXT, ARE IN NO WAY JUSTIFIED. AS FOR THE ARGUMENT THAT THE LIMITATIONS IN OTHER AREAS, WHICH WILL BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT, ALLEGEDLY CONSTITUTE GROUNDS FOR INTRODUCING LIMITATIONS ON METHODS OF TRANSMITTING TELEMETRIC INFORMATION, IT IS IRRELEVANT FOR THE REASONS SET FORTH ABOVE.

A QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED HERE ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREED PAR. 2 OF ARTICLE XVI AND METHODS OF TRANSMITTING TELEMETRIC INFORMATION. BY WAY OF CLARIFICATION, I WOULD LIKE, FIRST, TO EMPHASIZE THAT METHODS OF TRANSMITTING TELEMETRIC INFORMATION IN NO WAY GO BEYOND THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AGREED OBLIGATION NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE OTHER SIDE'S NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION IN CARRYING OUT THEIR FUNCTIONS. AND, SECOND, THE PROVISION TO THE EFFECT THAT METHODS OF TRANSMITTING TELEMETRIC INFORMATION DURING TESTING ARE NOT DELIBERATE CONCEALMENT MEASURES WOULD NOT MEAN IN ANY WAY NARROWING THE SCOPE OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE SIDES UNDER THE AGREED PARS. 1 AND 2 OF ARTICLE XVI OF THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT. UNQUOTE
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